



The NEW Mayor's Message:

Setting a Positive Plan in Motion

Burlington is growing at a phenomenal rate and my top priority is to ensure that the growth of the community is advantageous for all of our citizens. As a life-long resident of Burlington, it is my firm commitment to lead the City of Burlington in a positive and beneficial direction. Burlington has the potential to be one of the best cities in the State of Washington.

Working together with the City Council and every concerned citizen, we will meet the challenge for positive growth. These are some of the areas that have been identified as top priorities:

- Support for Education and Senior Programs.
- Focus on prioritizing the upgrade of residential streets and sidewalks in conjunction with setting appropriate design standards with the neighborhoods.
- Keep up the momentum on revitalizing public spaces Downtown, the Heart of our City.

“ *Burlington has the potential to be one of the best cities in the State of Washington.* ”

- Ensure that the Police and Fire Departments have the up to date equipment and manpower they need to protect public safety.
- Support the growing Library programs.
- Work with the Parks and Recreation to maximize opportunities for program expansion to meet the needs of current and future citizens.

- Make sure that the infrastructure issues facing the Interstate 5 corridor are addressed.

- The City faces serious issues relating to how FEMA makes changes to the

mapping of Burlington and surrounding areas. This has serious implications for our future growth and economy. We need a positive and collective plan to make sure we are heard, and protect our citizen's interests.

- Keep it simple by providing customer service to our citizens, at a high standard.



Newly Elected Mayor, Ed Brunz

I am available to meet with YOU and make sure that your interests are addressed. Burlington is well known for having great citizens who make their voices heard, and we are counting on you to help frame the future.

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Changes abound in Burlington

Happy Holidays to everyone!

The last few months of 2007 saw many changes to your City of Burlington Government. Most notably we have new facilities



New City Library

for the City's public service providers and we have some new faces in our Elected Officials positions. In June of 2007 we dedicated our new City Library located at 820 East Washington Avenue. Our goal for this facility was to build it large enough to house our growing book collection and to assure we have expansion capabilities for future purchases of books, DVD's and audio books. We also focused on providing the public with an expanded access

to computers, public meeting spaces, study cubicles for tutoring and a 12 station computer training lab. Recently the City Library received a wonderful gift of Art from Larry and Pat Edwards that sits at our main entry. The Art is titled "Toh Tactic" and was sculptured by Tony Bloom. The Library has received another donated item titled "Old Growth and Salal" from Heather Waldren, a local quilter. This beautiful quilt is hanging in the Library for all to view. The City of Burlington wants to thank Larry and Pat Edwards and Heather Waldren for their generous donations to the Library. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

The Library Foundation has purchased another piece of art titled "The Guide" and sculpted by Leo Osborne of Anacortes. "The Guide" is a sculpture of a Great Horned Owl and has been placed in the Library near the fireplace. Nationally recognized artist Joseph Kinnebrew of Mount Vernon crafted "Thinking of You" out of welded steel that resembles curled ribbons you would find on gifts. This piece of art is being purchased by the Library Foundation and the City of Burlington and will be displayed outside the Library near the entry way off of East Washington Avenue. Again the City is grateful for both artists interest in our call for proposals and thank them for their submittals and help in enhancing public art in the City of Burlington.

City Hall was dedicated in July and has provided the City the ability to consolidate their various public services in one centralized campus location at 833 South Spruce Street. With the Mayor's office, City Administration, Legal Department, Information Services, Planning, Building and Finance Departments all under one roof and adjacent to the Fire Station, Police Station and Municipal Court the public will be

able to access all city services with one location. In addition to these Departments the City Council and Planning Commission holds their regularly scheduled

meetings at this site. There are also a number of conference rooms that the Public may schedule for single time meetings. Future plans for City Hall includes the development of an art gallery where local artists may display their paintings in various parts of City Hall for public viewing. For more information contact me at 755-0531.



New City Hall



Mayor Tjeerdsma



Sally Straathof

I want to take this moment to extend a hearty thank you to Mayor Gus Tjeerdsma and Councilmember Sally Straathof for your years of service to the citizens of Burlington. Sally served as the Ward #2 Councilmember for 10 years and was active on many committees of the City. Mayor Gus Tjeerdsma is finishing his twelfth year of an illustrious career as Mayor of Burlington.

During his term he was involved in many projects including the purchase of Skagit River Park property, the completion of a new Fire Station, Police Station and Municipal Court facility, a new Library and a new City Hall. He was actively involved in the construction of Skagit River Park, the Tjeerdsma Boat Launch and he saw the paving of the last graveled road in Burlington. Gus and Sally we thank you for your dedication and leadership.

Election results have been certified by the County. Mr. Ed Brunz has been elected as our new Mayor commencing on January 1, 2008. Incumbent Councilmembers Ted Montgomery of Ward #1, Joanne Valentine of Ward #3 and Bill Aslett the At-Large member were reinstated for another term in office. Welcome to new Councilmember Edie Edmundson who will represent Ward #2. Congratulations to all of you who have been elected to your positions representing the citizens of Burlington. All newly elected officials will be sworn into office on December 13, 2007 at our last Council meeting of the 2007 year. Once sworn into office these newly elected officials will assume their post on January 1, 2008. We are entering a new period of time in Burlington.

continued on next page

GET INVOLVED: Form a Neighbor to Neighbor Plan

Since the development of the Citywide Evacuation Plan in 2002, the Burlington Flood Team has been working to get a better handle on how to do a good job of evacuation for critical care facilities, day care centers, schools, retirement centers and the general public.

The planning for critical facility evacuation is well organized, thanks to the efforts of Bud Bowers, Burlington Police Chief and Burlington-Edison School District facilities Manager, John Leander, who has made available the great combination of accessible school buses and trucks to haul equipment for nursing home patients. The role of each critical facility is to have a location to go to and be ready to help.

What about all the apartments and condominiums and every neighborhood? We want to have a program in place where **everyone gets**



ready EARLY and has the choice of **evacuating early** to prevent traffic jams, and to give people lots more choices of places to go. For example, if you have friends or relatives located south of the Skagit River, you need to go early in case the bridges are closed in a major flood. If you wait until the last minute, you must **GO NORTH**.

It looks like the answer is right here in the Grass Roots! After two very long years of trying to get volunteers to become certified flaggers and help in the event of a citywide evacuation, with only **ONE** citizen offering their services, a new approach is unfolding.

FLOOD EVACUATION PLANNING SUCCESS STORY!!!

Hats off to the Cedars Condominium project for getting organized to take care of the community in a flood event. This is truly a model organization for every neighborhood to look at. The Block Leaders have volunteered to help neighbors in the event of an emergency.

During a flood event, Burlington starts the flood watch process with a meeting held at least 24 hours before a flood will

reach the city. If a flood fight appears likely, the Police Chief decides that it is timely to notify everyone on the early notification list, including nursing homes, schools, retirement living locations and day care centers. Phone calls will be made to each facility, to let them know that there may be a need to evacuate in the next 12 hours. At this point, the Block Leaders will immediately call on each resident in their area in person or by phone to offer assistance. If people have emergency plans to stay with friends or relatives, the suggestion is to go early, particularly if the location is south on the freeway, because at some point the roads to the south may be closed.

If your block, your homeowner's association, or your apartment or condominium group wants to join the early notice and help your neighbor program, please give the Planning Department a call at 755-9717 and we will come out and help you get started!!!!



**THANK YOU CEDARS
FOR TAKING ACTION!**

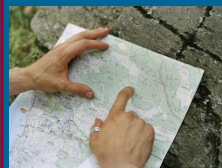
Continued from Page 2—Changes Abound in Burlington

Most of our facility needs have been filled and we have been diligent in maintaining the necessary utility infrastructures in Burlington. What is next? Well we have a number of transportation issues that need to be addressed. I see this topic to be high on the priority list with our new Mayor and Council for the next few years. Please remember this is a democratic government and you as a citizen of Burlington have the right to engage in the planning meetings that will be held to determine our future. I encourage all of you to become more involved with your new Mayor and Council to express your suggestions regarding Burlington's future.

With the close of 2007 I will have served the City of Burlington nine great years. I thank all the people who have engaged themselves in meetings, surveys, dedications and activities in Burlington. Personally I want to thank **ALL** the Staff of Burlington. Each of you are dedicated staff members and I have been privileged to work with each of you. Without you our City would not be nearly as fortunate in its stability and diversity. Thank you and Best Wishes to all of you for a wonderful and joyous Holiday season!

Jon T. Aarstad, City Administrator

EVACUATION PLAN MAP IS ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER



This map is for **ALL HAZARDS**, so be sure to keep this in a place where you can find it. A suggestion is to keep this plan and map in your Emergency

Preparedness Kit.

Now is the time to get prepared for the Winter with a Home Emergency Plan and Emergency Supply Kit. There is no means to predict the arrival of a natural disaster and it is the responsibility of **EVERY CITIZEN** to stay prepared.

Your new library: bustling hub of the city

The new Burlington Public Library at 820 East Washington Avenue has been open since May 23, and the place is always hopping! By the end of September, people had already visited the gorgeous new space 65,447 times! Families are rediscovering our storytimes, the Burlington-Edison Kiwanis Computer Lab is bustling, and frequent meetings in the Burlington Rotary Community Meeting Room bring new faces daily. We're especially pleased to host the monthly Burlington Chamber of Commerce luncheons.

By far the most popular new area of the library collection is our DVD section; we have contemporary feature films as well as classics; select television series, and a wide variety of documentary and how-to films. Audiobook fans may like to try our new Playaway format—instead of a case full of CDs, we now offer an entire book on an Ipod-sized player. All you provide is the headphones (and we can sell you a pair for \$1). Clip it onto your belt, and listen to a great book while you garden or go for a walk.

If you haven't stopped by your new library yet, what's keeping you? We're open 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Friendly staff are on hand to answer your reference questions, suggest a good book or video, and assist you with the computers. We've noticed families coming on a rainy Saturday to enjoy the educational software in the Children's Area (I Spy, Magic Schoolbus, Dr. Seuss's ABCs and others), snuggle up in a window seat, or put on a puppet show in the Puppet Playhouse. We hope to see you @ your library soon!



Art @ your library

The Burlington Library Art Committee has been busy in the short time since their formation in May. Working together with the Burlington Library Foundation the committee has welcomed two donations of art to the library. On October 3 the library hosted an unveiling reception for the art sculpture *Toh Tactic* by Tony Bloom of Canmore, Alberta,



Canada. A large steel and cable sculpture, the piece is reminiscent of the game Tic Tac Toe, and is a real hands-on work of art. The artist was present to celebrate the unveiling and talk about the design process. The sculpture was purchased with funds donated to the library by long-time library supporters and art lovers Larry and Pat Edwards.

The second piece of art is a beautiful art quilt, *Old Growth and Salal*, which was donated by the artist, Heather Waldron, of Mount Vernon. Inspired by the area around Deception Pass State Park, the wall-size quilt depicts old growth Douglas Firs against the gray clouds of the Northwest. The intricate free-motion machine quilting suggests the forest undergrowth of salal leaves.

A third piece of art will arrive in October. *The Guide*, by Anacortes artist Leo E. Osborne is placed near the fireplace in the Stowe Family Reading Nook. This piece is a life-sized brass sculpture of a Great Horned Owl.

With the addition of these art pieces, the Burlington Public Library is a Hub for Information, Ideas and **Imagination**.

The committee members are currently working on a Library Art Policy that will be used to guide the process for future art donations and short-term displays of art by local artists.

A final project was the selection of art for the exterior library entrance plaza. The committee received submissions from 16 Northwest artists and have selected **Thinking of You** by Mount Vernon artist Joseph Kinnebrew. The recommendation was approved by the City Council and Library Art Committee. We anticipate that the sculpture will be installed by the end of the year.

The members of the Burlington Library Art Committee are:

- Jon Aarstad
- Bill Aslett
- Ann Bodel-Nash
- Janice Burwash
- Joe DeGloria
- Larry Edwards
- Phil Hurtig
- Lou Ann Knutzen
- Ted Montgomery
- Christine Perkins
- Jane Sneeringer
- Peggy Stowe
- Sally Straathof

New faces welcome you to your library

Library users may have noticed a few new faces at your library. **Abel Diaz** has his Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington and will be focusing on adult services and reference. **Lisa Dills** has a teaching background and will be working with Lisa Anderson to provide children's services—both of the Lisa's have brown wavy hair and big smiles so it may be tough to tell them apart. **Isabel Rodriguez** is our newest Library Assistant at the Checkout Desk. We're also pleased to welcome Michelle Venegas, Kate Stice, Sara Flores, and Olivia Doyle as our high school pages. Please stop by and say hi.



Storytimes for Children

Toddler Time

Tuesdays @ 10:30 a.m.

18 months – 3-years-old

Winter session runs from January 8 through March 25, 2008. Hear brief stories and learn lively nursery rhymes and songs.

Preschool Story Time

Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m.

3 – 6 year-olds

Winter session runs from January 10 through March 27, 2008. Longer stories are introduced. Learn dynamic finger plays and songs in English and Spanish.

Childcare providers with large groups, please call ahead to reserve a time.



Library and Lions Assist People with Low-Vision

The Burlington Lions Club, with help from Vonnie Coonrod of the Burlington Eagles Auxiliary #3242, raised \$1,500 to purchase two new portable low-vision magnifiers for use at the Burlington Public Library.

One of the high-tech magnification devices can be used by anyone inside the library, while the other can be checked out to library cardholders to use at home for a two-week period.

They work like small portable cameras, with a built-in magnification lens to adjust the size of what you're viewing.

The Lions encourage anyone with vision impairment to check out a magnifier to see if it would be useful to them in the long-term. Grants from the Club will be available to folks who need help purchasing a device of their own.

The Lions have also donated a large closed circuit television which allows people who are visually impaired to magnify the print in magazines and newspapers.

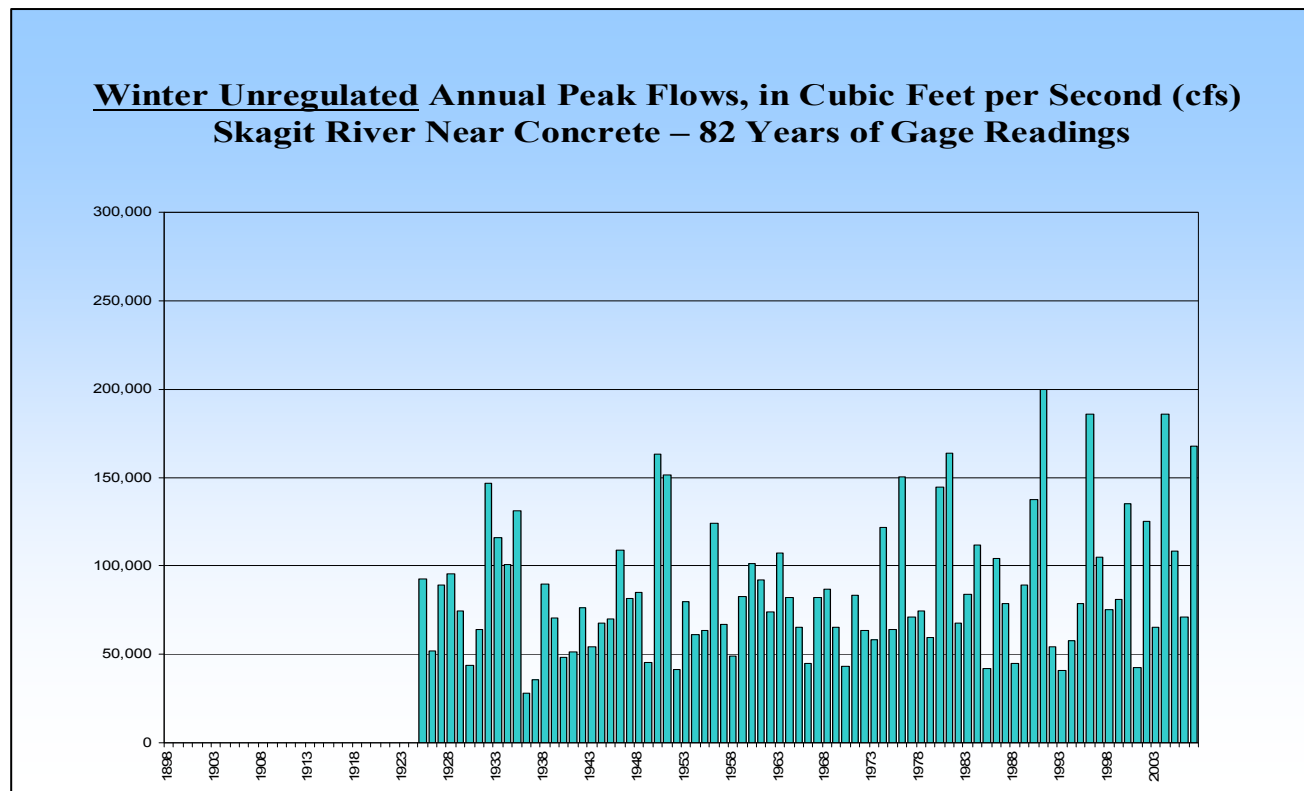
This machine is located to the left of the fireplace, in the Large Print Area. We welcome folks to come in and try it out; library staff can assist you.

Public Works

FEMA Flood Mapping and Skagit River Hydrology – Could the Administrative “Cure” be Worse Than the Problem?

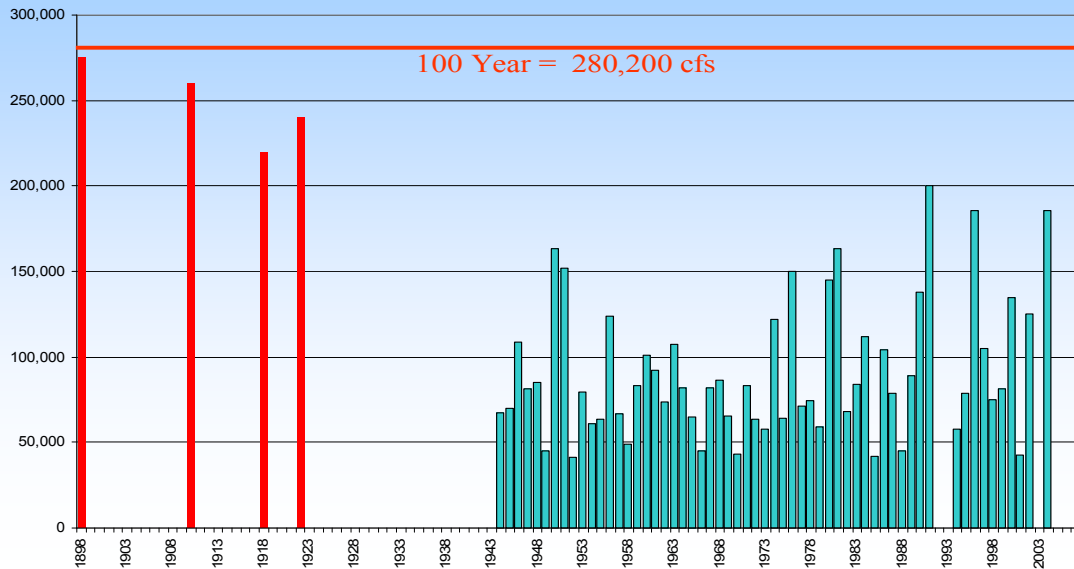
We all know Skagit River flooding is a serious issue. Since 1991, we have had four floods with the potential to put water into parts of the City; however, Dike District 12 was successful each time in protecting the City. Since 1991, the Dike District has improved the levee system in key areas. Today, Dike 12 can withstand a larger flood event than any recorded in 82 years of gage records.

FEMA, through its technical consultant the US Army Corps of Engineers, believes the theoretical 100-year flood is much larger than any recorded flood of the past 82 years. The City of Burlington disagrees with this analysis and believes that while a 100-year event is much larger than any floods recorded in the past 82 years, the 100-year flood is not as large as the FEMA analysis indicates. This is because the gage record of the past 82 years (see graphic) does not support the estimates of historic flooding that are included in the FEMA analysis. The graph below shows the unregulated peak flows recorded on the Skagit river for the past 82 years:

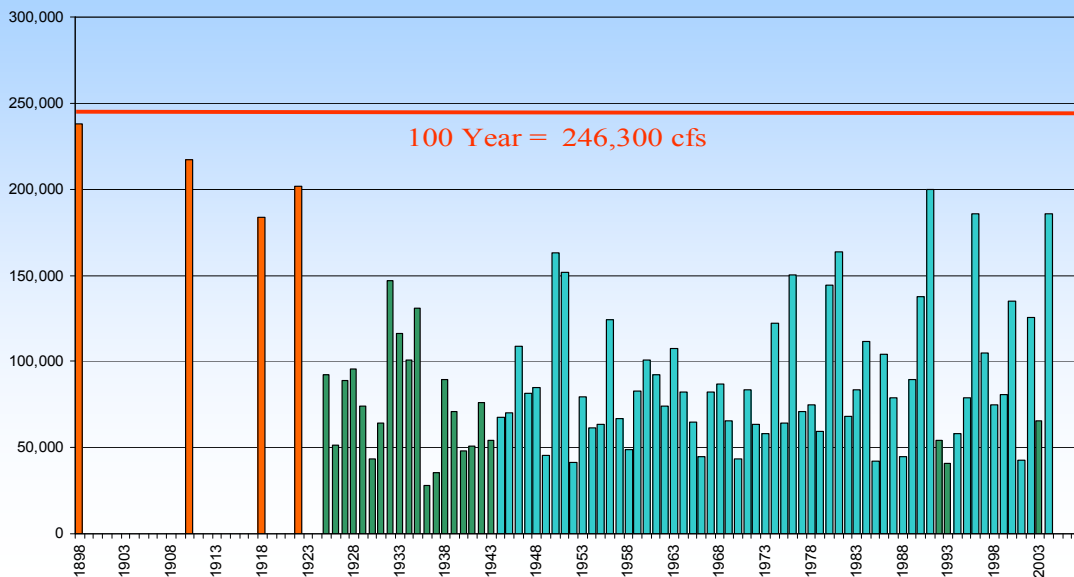


At issue in the hydrologic analysis is the magnitude of flooding that occurred prior to the gage installation in 1923. We believe the estimates of these historic events FEMA is using are too high and skew the hydrologic analysis high. You can judge for yourself. Graphical depictions of the 82 years of recorded data, the differences in the data sets, and the 100-year discharges projected from those data sets are shown on Page 7:

Winter Unregulated Annual Peak Flows Skagit River Near Concrete: Corps of Engineers Data Set



Winter Unregulated Annual Peak Flows Skagit River Near Concrete: PI Engineering Data Set

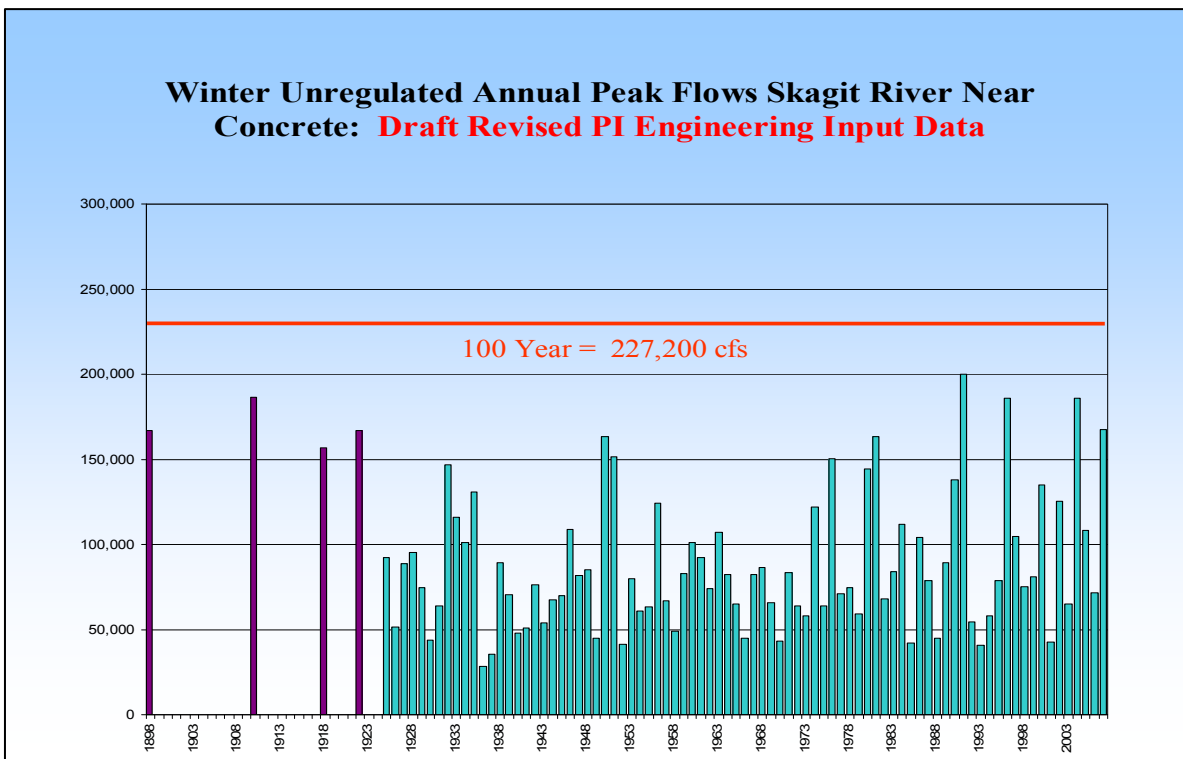


continued on Page 8

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FEMA Flood Mapping and Skagit River Hydrology

Since the City's consultant, Pacific International Engineering, published its original hydrology and hydraulics report in December 2005, Burlington has conducted additional study work in Hamilton, based upon the flood history of the Smith house, built in 1908. This new information has been incorporated into the latest technical analysis from PI Engineering, resulting in the revised unregulated peak flow estimates shown here:



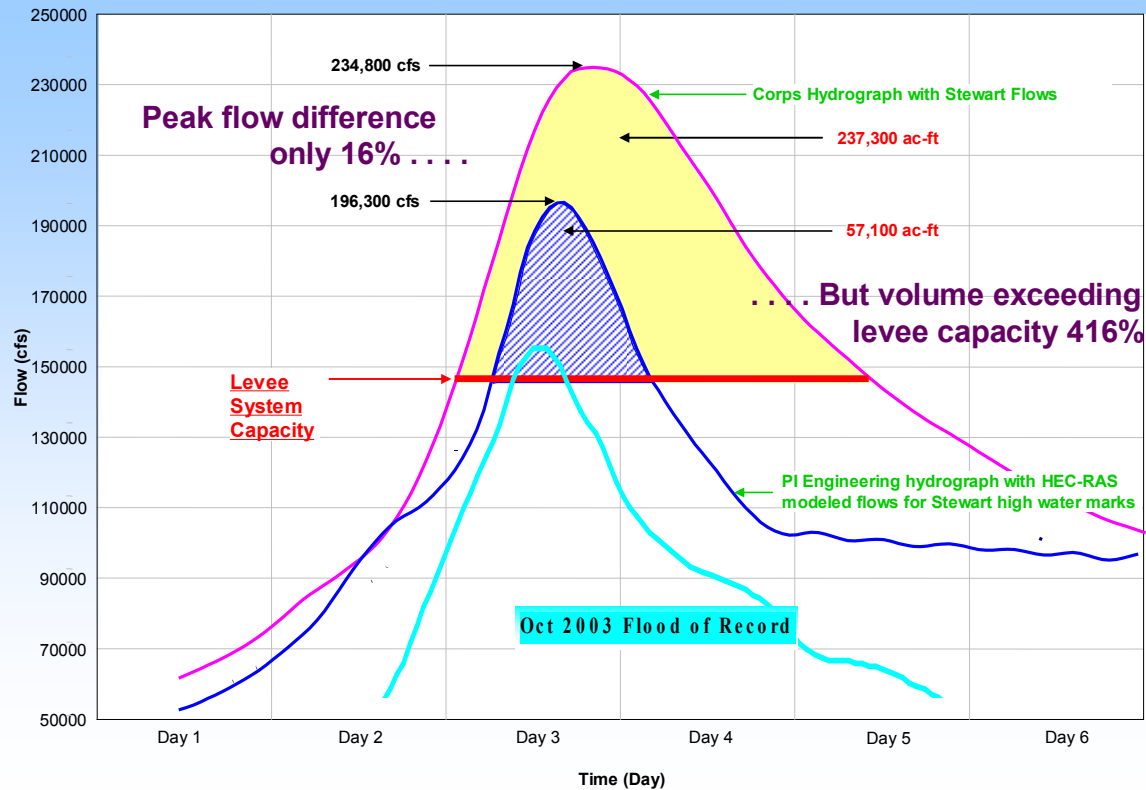
The charts above speak to unregulated flow estimates at Concrete, Sedro-Woolley and Mount Vernon. Taking into account the currently-authorized flood storage behind Ross and Upper Baker dams, the table below shows the differences in the various technical estimates, compared to the 2003 flood of record for the Skagit River:

100-Year Regulated Peak Flow Estimates (cubic feet per second) Corps of Engineers and Pacific International Engineering

<u>Analysis/Data</u>	<u>Concrete</u>	<u>Sedro-Woolley</u>	<u>Mount Vernon</u>
FEMA	226,400	234,820	221,510
PI Engr 2005	192,300	196,300	174,200
PI Engr 2007	178,700	180,900	162,100
Peak since 1924	166,000	163,000 (est)	152,000

These differences are shown in the graphic on Page 9:

FEMA 100-year Flood Hydrographs at Sedro Woolley (with existing flood storage)



Recently, the Cities of Burlington and Mount Vernon, along with Dike Districts 12 and 1, have been working cooperatively with Skagit County to try to find a way to get an independent and fair review of our side of this story. There has been some progress in that regard, in that the entities above recently agreed to a joint defense framework that enables everyone to work together and share information.

The ramifications of incorrect hydrology will be serious and persistent for the entire Skagit Valley, and negatively affect the long term economic vitality and future quality of life for our area citizens. Growth in the property tax base is essential to provide important services our community needs, including schools. Most people do not realize that the base flood elevations will go up, no matter which analysis is used. So there will be a financial handicap – it is already going to happen. At issue is whether our community will be handicapped for decades by overly conservative base flood estimates which follow from an incorrect analysis, or whether we will have a chance to, over years and perhaps decades, at least certify our levies and take other appropriate actions to protect ourselves from the externally-generated, administrative handicap that is being thrust upon us. Ultimately, it may not be the flood itself, but rather the negative economic consequences of the overestimated 100-year flood that turns out to be the greatest risk for the City. We recognize the difficulty of, on the one hand, ensuring our citizens have a healthy respect for the Skagit flood risk, while on the other hand, protesting that the risk is overstated by FEMA. But it is a critical distinction that must be made. On the one hand, we have a tangible flood risk that we can deal with directly; on the other hand, we have an administrative program that, over time, could cause the economic foundation of the community to slowly wither. In the end, the greatest threat could be the latter.

We welcome your thoughts on this issue. If you would like additional information about this article, or would like to view more in-depth information, please call the Burlington Public Works Department at 755-9715, email our Public Works Director at smartin@ci.burlington.wa.us or stop by the Public Works office in our new City Hall, 833 South Spruce Street.

Program Registration Made EASY!

BurlingtOnline!

Online registration is a convenient way to browse and sign up for **Parks & Recreation** programs.

Log on to:

<http://recreation.ci.burlington.wa.us>

to use this exciting feature!

**User ID and PIN # for registration
can be obtained by:**



- 1) **Call** us at 755-9649 - OR -
- 2) **Email** your family members names, kids' birthdates, address & phone # to bparks@ci.burlington.wa.us

We'll get back to you by the next business day with information to get you started!

In Person or Over the Phone!

We now have a VISA/MC available for your registration convenience. Recreation Programs or Facility Rentals can all be handled over the phone. Just give us a call!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Team TreBarbaric** who holds the current World Record for farthest pumpkin thrown by a Trebuchet with an **astounding distance of**



1866.6 feet.! Recorded right here in Skagit Valley at the Burlington **Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Pitch** on September 29th!

Burlington Late Night Gym

Saturdays from 7:00 to 11:00 pm the Gym is open for youth ages 12 years -12th grade.

Stop by the BEHS Field House for **FREE** basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer. Snacks, contest (bump and 3 point) all under the supervision of Burlington Recreation Staff. Positive, safe environment ... come check it out!

Sponsored by Burlington Parks and Recreation, B-E School District, Burlington Healthy Community Coalition (formerly BECPN), Skagit County Parks & Recreation, and B-E Kiwanis Club.



Did you know?



- ◆ We offer Yoga Classes every Thursday night for \$24 per month?
- ◆ Our Scrapbooking Drop-in Classes and All Day Crops are celebrating their 5th year of success?
- ◆ You can attend Spanish Conversational Language Lessons for Beginners & Intermediate Students.
- ◆ We have a website with current information on Programs, Parks, Facilities, and Special Events? <http://recreation@ci.burlington.wa.us>
- ◆ During "No School" days we provide fun, affordable, recreational opportunities for youth and families?
- ◆ There are Program Scholarship opportunities through the Burlington Parks Foundation?

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL ***December 25 – January 15***

Residents living within the city limits of Burlington may haul their Christmas tree to the City's Recycling Center located at 951 S. Section Street from ***December 25 through January 15, 2008.***



Municipal Court

Passports are continuing to be a great service and a good source of revenue for the city. The Municipal Court has remitted to the City over \$15,000.00 in the first half of this year. The Department of State has finally hired more personnel and has caught up with the demand for passports. The average time to receive your passport after application has been sent in is now four weeks, down from the 12-18 weeks a few months ago. Everyone will need a passport by the end of the year to travel to Canada and Mexico. At this time, passports are required to fly, or to go on a cruise.

Gross revenue for the first six months of 2007 is \$159,677.49. We have had 1014 tickets filed in the first six months; this is down slightly from the same time frame of 2006.

The Municipal Court in conjunction with the Building and Grounds Department launched a six month pilot City Work Program (CWP) with a paid supervisor.

This pilot program was a huge success! It has since been made a full time, permanent program. During the six month period, we logged 2921 hours of work done by the CWP; this is the equivalent of 365 days work performed in six months. At the jail rate of \$65 per day, this is a **savings of \$23,725 to the city.** Additionally, the actual work that has been performed has really changed the appearance of the city. Gages Slough, under the I-5 over passes and numerous other trouble spots are now litter free! The sidewalks along Burlington Boulevard have been cleaned and edged for the first time in years. **Great job, Ron and Paul!**

Year to date we have collected and distributed to local business owners **\$2,736.57 in restitution.** As a small court, we work hard to collect restitution for our local merchants and citizens. This figure does not include restitution that was paid directly to the merchants, as court ordered, for bad checks or merchandise and/or services.



BUSINESS LICENSES:

As the Holidays near, new



businesses and amusement devices appear! All businesses, big and small,

conducting business within the City limits must contact City Hall. Per Burlington Municipal Code 5.04.090 it is your duty, so please stop by, we won't be snooty. Applications are available in our office or online. You may visit www.ci.burlington.wa.us for more details. It is as easy as

1 - 2 - 3 and we hope that you agree, but please call City hall at (360) 755-0531 for your annual fee. Come prepared with your State UBI and we can make it a snap. Registering your business with Burlington will keep you on the map.



Notes from the Finance Department

The bare trees and chilly weather is here to tell us that summer is over and fall has begun. November brings many changes. Beginning with your **November/December** utility bill, the City of Burlington residential sewer charges will be based on actual water usage, as supplied by PUD No.1 of Skagit County. Please be sure to notify the Utility Billing Department if you have any significant changes in you usage, i.e. occupancy, water leak, snow-birds, etc.

For those of you new to Burlington, the City offers a Direct Debit *Autopay* option to pay your utility bills. Thank you to all who are currently participating! We have approximately 200 accounts currently signed up and welcome more. Autopay is a simple and worry-free way to pay your bill on time, without the five (5) day waiting period of online Bill Pay (*you will never have a late fee again!*) Call City Hall @ (360) 755-0531 for more information or go to our web site at www.ci.burlington.wa.us and download the informational letter and agreement. You will find it under City Services/Sewer Billing/Authorization Agreement for Direct Payment. You can fill it out and mail it back to 833 S. Spruce Street. Please note that

the agreement can not be processed without an original signature.

For those of you who like to pay by Credit and/or Debit card we do offer the convenience of paying your bill over the phone or in person. We accept VISA and MasterCard, Monday through Friday between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Along with the changing weather we have also changed location. The Utility Department is located on the first floor of the New City Hall at **833 S. Spruce Street** and is combined with the Finance Department. If wish to make your payments in person, you can stop by and visit our new facility. We also have a drive-up drop box located at the North end of our parking lot for your convenience. Please note that the drop box at the Old City Hall is **NOT** to be used for utility payments and is not checked by the Utility Billing Department.

During the busy holiday season please remember to allow a few extra days for the mailing of your utility payments. We wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Sewer Department

Another new sanitary sewer pumping station is under construction in Burlington. Located at the north end of town on the Knutzen property on North Burlington Boulevard, the station will provide sanitary sewer service to future development on this property as well as service to the proposed SKAT facility and State Park & Ride. In 2008 new gravity sewers will be installed on North Burlington Boulevard and will tie to the new pump station. This system will serve property along the Boulevard north of Avon Avenue where currently there are no sewers.

The Sewer Department has recently received phone calls from several citizens inquiring about the validity of a phone scam that is targeting our area. The scammers claim to be working with the City and are marketing a product for cleaning residential sewer pipes. They claim the City will fine the individual homeowners \$1000 if their sewer lines become plugged and also claim the product they are selling will prevent such blockages from occurring. **There is no truth to any of this.** The City has no association with any marketing company and certainly has no intent of fining homeowners for not using their product. If you receive a call of this nature you should hang up immediately. Under no circumstances should you give these shysters any personal or financial information.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The Buildings and Grounds Department has been working diligently to work out all of the maintenance mysteries in the City's new library and city hall buildings. Little by little the bugs are being worked out. This department has also been working hard to manage all the new landscaped areas around these buildings.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two new members to the Buildings and Grounds crew. **Ron Hodgins** joined this department in October as a groundskeeper and manager of community workers and **Scott Hooker** came on board in July for building maintenance.

Burlington Greenhills Cemetery

Burlington's Greenhills Memorial Cemetery on Gardner Road is one of the City's most historic sites.

Around the turn of the century the Burlington Cemetery was organized by the Maccabee Lodge. Later the management was taken over by the Ladies of the Maccabees. Then in 1924 the Burlington Cemetery Association was incorporated and continued with its care and maintenance. Acquisition of the Cemetery was made by the City at the request of the Board of the Burlington Cemetery Association. It was their desire that the City assume the responsibility of the care, development, maintenance and operation of the Cemetery which contains some 15 acres. The transfer to the City was made August 14, 1954.

The City is mindful of its responsibility to care for and maintain the Cemetery in a manner that will bring

beauty, dignity and comfort to all those who visit there. A Perpetual Care fund was set up which is invested only in securities authorized by the State of Washington. The principal of this fund cannot be used but interest may be used for care and maintenance. No lots are sold without Perpetual Care with 25% of the purchase price of each lot going to that fund.

"Before Need" purchase of burial properties is recommended. This matter should be handled as any other business transaction and is best not left until the time when decisions cannot be made with calm judgment.

Lots may be purchased at City Hall. You may come in or call 755-0531 for further information. There are many lots available at these current costs:

Type of Lot	Section	Cost
Burial	Old Section & 1948 Plat	\$550.00
Burial	Azalea, Legion, Evergreen, Magnolia & Cedar Gardens	\$580.00
Burial	Baby Land (Children's Garden)	\$300.00/\$150.00
Urn	Urn Garden	\$265.00
Urn	Columbarium	\$400.00

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Business at the fire department continues to grow. We have responded to 1,493 emergency calls for service through October. Our calls for service have increased 10% over the same time period last year. We see a smaller percentage of fires each year in spite of the increase in call volume.

We would like to welcome and congratulate our newest firefighters who are just completing the Skagit County Fire Academy with high marks. Our newest volunteer members are Mike Aquino, Tom Bertsch, Nathan Wadlin and Tim Wilson.

We also want to congratulate Brandon Bond who was hired as a full-time firefighter on November 1, 2007. Brandon began as volunteer with Burlington five years ago and went through a thorough testing process to obtain his position.



Burlington RESIDENTIAL Garbage Holiday Collection Schedule

Normal Scheduled Collection	WILL BE Collected on:
Tuesday, December 25	Wednesday, December 26
Wednesday, December 26	Thursday, December 27
Thursday, December 27	Friday, December 28
Tuesday, January 1	Wednesday, January 2
Wednesday, January 2	Thursday, January 3
Thursday, January 3	Friday, January 4

CLIMATE CHANGE:

The Next Round of Unfunded Mandates from Olympia??

The other possible title for this article is **“Why Local Government cannot sleep during any session of the State Legislature”**. The most recent hit on local government was the Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit where we are now mandated to get our stormwater as clean and clear as if this were the original forest hundreds of years ago. Each construction site over one acre in size also has to get a separate stormwater permit from the state. The good news is that Low Impact Development designs may be the best solution for setting residential street standards so they do not turn into paved raceways through the neighborhood. And that design is one of the features of proposed climate change legislation, the next stop on the road to regulatory confusion.

Typically, new strategies aimed at strangling local control start with the big cities and then work their way down to small cities and towns in a few years

time. One might ask, how do you regulate climate change? What are the costs, legal obligation and potential liability? The Environmental Community has a big proposal that includes adding a new goal to the Growth Management Act plans and a new Climate Change Element. Planning to address impacts to water supplies, flooding and sea-level rise; determine how Greenhouse Gas Emission goals apply to local carbon “budgets” and how targets will be allocated; additional studies for Urban Growth Area expansions, and a wealth of other ideas will be on the table. Green building is expensive, reducing consumption is expensive and sales tax credits or other incentives will be a critical component.

Sound confusing and complicated? Here’s hoping that our defensive team from the Association of Washington Cities is on track to protect local interests!



833 S. Spruce Street
Burlington WA 98233

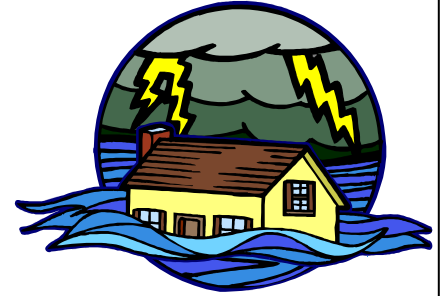
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Christmas*



FLOOD & NATURAL HAZARD REDUCTION PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN #30

Fall/Winter 2007

Now is the time to get prepared for the Winter with a home emergency plan and emergency supply kit. There is no means to predict the arrival of a natural disaster and it is the responsibility of every citizen to stay prepared.

Work is in process on updating the Burlington Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to set the goal for 100-year Levee Certification around the Urban Areas and develop the detailed implementation work program. Release date for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and updated Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan by the City is linked to the date of release of draft maps. The reason for the focus on getting the levees certified is because the Federal Emergency Management Agency is proposing to release new draft Base Flood Elevation maps in January that will significantly raise the required elevation for new construction or substantial renovations. This date is contingent on successful inclusion of the Samish River study, revisions to floodplain boundaries based on new topography provided by the County, and factoring in the USGS conclusion to officially revise the peak discharge.

Burlington has relied on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps issued in 1985 for all new construction and there is a grave concern that changes are being made without adequate justification. The City must have predictable federal standards that are not changed in order to serve the public fairly.

There may be a significant adverse impact on Burlington from increases in Base Flood Elevations. An appeal will probably be filed because it is the position of Burlington and Mount Vernon that the Federal Emergency Management Agency is using incorrect assumptions about how much water will actually reach Burlington in a 100-year flood. The City of Burlington and Mount Vernon are preparing an independent proposal utilizing newly acquired technical data and will request this independent analysis be considered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It is the position of the Federal Emergency Management Agency that the cities proposal will only be considered through a request for a Letter of Map Revision or a formal appeal that provides data that show the proposed base flood elevations to be scientifically or technically incorrect.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's position on establishing a regulatory floodway in the Skagit River delta area is that the issue is significant and that efforts at least comparable to the actions taken with adoption of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps in the mid-1980's are needed. With this in mind, Burlington would keep Gages Slough as a Special Flood Risk Zone and keep an area of 300 feet behind the levees designated as Special Flood Risk Zone. Burlington will also take action to protect overbank flow paths across farmland around the city through supporting farmland preservation efforts. The existing floodway path for the River is through the Nookachamps and Sterling area, and once the railroad is overtopped, the water moves north to the farmland.

In order to protect the long term public interest, the City is proceeding to amend the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to add the goal and implementation strategy of upgrading the levees and adding components as needed to certify the levees for one hundred year flood protection so that the levees will count in the computer modeling for determining the Base Flood Elevations in the Burlington urban area. This is expected to take a number of years to accomplish. Only 100-year Certified Levees qualify for credit in the mapping process.

A critical issue for the community is finetuning the Evacuation Plan. In order to make sure that everyone gets out of town in a timely manner, Citizen Volunteers are critically needed. A short training course is planned as soon as a class of Volunteers is available. **MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** You will receive certification as a Flagger and learn the basics of how to evacuate Burlington. Additional training to become a member of the CERT (Certified Emergency Response) team will be available for people who are interested. Call the Planning Department at **755-9717** if you want to help.

Property Protection Measures

No time like the present to get started on improving flood protection in your home. Take a few minutes to look over the possible areas where you may need to floodproof important parts of your home. Electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and washers/dryers should be elevated or relocated to a location less likely to be flooded. If you heat with propane, pour a slab and anchor the tanks to the ground with straps or bolts or they will become floating bombs. Basement floor drains and interior and exterior backwater valves can be installed, and interior floodwalls can be placed around utilities. If you have a newer (post 1985) home, check to be sure these items have been taken care of when the home was constructed. Identify the potential for moving essential items and furniture to upper floors or the attic of your home. Materials like sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing can already be on hand. This action will help minimize the amount of damage caused by floodwaters and requires minimal storage space.

If you would like information on ways to floodproof your home or parts of it, the Building Department and the Library have lots of resource materials.

Flood Insurance

Any property owner in the City of Burlington is eligible to obtain Flood Hazard Insurance, since the city participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. Purchasing or refinancing a home will trigger a requirement for flood insurance by the lender. Coverage in the event of flooding is not included in typical homeowner's insurance policies. Flood insurance is available through your own agency or broker and includes flooding from ponding/drainage problems, snowmelt flooding, runoff on hillsides, or any flooding involving surface water. Contents of the building are a separate addition to the policy. There is limited coverage available for flood-related erosion and mudslide. Replacement cost coverage is available for principal residences. *Concerned about high Flood Insurance Rates?* You may qualify for a substantial reduction if you have an Elevation Certificate that shows your home or business is located at or above the 100 year flood elevation. You will have to retain the services of a Licensed Engineer to complete the paperwork, unless an Elevation Certificate is already on file with the Building Department, so please check here first. Flood insurance rates are higher for buildings with crawl spaces that are two feet or more below the lowest adjacent exterior grade, which is a common construction practice in the northwest.

There is an excellent FEMA publication entitled "Are You Ready? An In-depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness" available. This publication offers disaster information for natural hazards, technological hazards and terrorism. It will guide you for preparation in advance and recovery from a disaster. If you want to order a free copy for your home, call 1-800-480-2520. A copy is available in the Burlington Public Library. **THIS COVERS THE BASIC DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT IN DETAIL.**

Flood Warning System

Each and every citizen has a role to play in the event of a flood. **BE PREPARED!!!** The Burlington Flood Emergency Team prepares and coordinates activities needed to be ready for any flood event with the involvement of all the responsible agencies. A new siren is in the for better coverage; once installed you will definitely hear it being tested on the first Monday of each month at Noon to remind all who hear it that Burlington is never far away from flood season.

The procedure for warning the public is coordinated through the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management. The Emergency Alert System is activated when necessary and includes the following local radio stations:

KBRC 1430 AM § KLKI 1340 AM § KAPS 660 AM
If evacuation is necessary, there will also be door-to-door notification and loudspeakers broadcasting from public safety vehicles in the neighborhood. Flaggers, if available, will be stationed at key intersections along the Evacuation Route to direct traffic. ***Sign up now to get certified as a Burlington Evacuation Volunteer – call 755-9717.***

Local Flood Hazard Areas

There are three flood zones in the City Limits of Burlington, the Floodway (river side of the dike), the 100 Year Flood Zone and the Special Flood Risk Zone. Most of Burlington is in the 100 Year Flood Zone.

The Special Flood Risk Zone includes all land within 300 feet of the landward toe of the Dike. All structures must be designed so that floodwaters can pass underneath and there is no occupied space below one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, unless the site is within 100 feet of the Dike where nothing can be built. All property in Gages Slough that is three feet or more below the 100 year flood elevation was designed as Special Flood Risk in the mid 1980's as part of a negotiating process over the uniquely complex Skagit River delta area when the Flood Insurance Rate Maps were finalized. The status of Gages Slough will be revisited when the new base flood elevation maps are unveiled by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Interim Controls are in place and the Special Flood Risk Zone has been extended to a line that has been negotiated between Dike District #12 and Dike District #17 (south side) through the three-bridge corridor (Railroad bridge, Old 99 bridge, and Interstate 5 bridge) to accommodate setting the dikes back and raising them as needed to make enough room for the Skagit River to accommodate a 100-year flood event within the banks.

Flood Safety & Disaster Preparedness

Every home needs to be prepared and **STAY PREPARED!** Review your Flood procedure at home with your household and take the time to put your Emergency Preparedness Kit together, or check your flashlight batteries in your existing kit. Remember, a supply of drinking water, emergency food and first aid kit are the bare minimums, along with flashlights. In addition to the basic three day supply of food and water, consider having supplies for sheltering for up to two weeks. Keep a small “grab and go” kit for your place of work with food, water, first aid supplies. For the emergency kit in the car, add flares, jumper cables and seasonal supplies. If a flood is forecast, make the following preparations in the event of a call to evacuate:

- ⇒ Secure your home before leaving; turn off electricity, gas and water if possible
- ⇒ Fill your car’s gas tank; gasoline pumps will not be working if electricity has been cut off.
- ⇒ If there’s time, some items to take with you are:
 - ▶ Prescription drugs
 - ▶ Special Needs, such as food if you require a special diet
 - ▶ Eyeglasses
 - ▶ Clothing - enough for at least 24 hours
 - ▶ Personal items - toiletries, documents, photo albums, etc.
 - ▶ Bedding - sleeping bags, blankets, pillows
 - ▶ Baby or child supplies
 - ▶ Money - cash, credit cards, checks
 - ▶ Proper identification - especially important for small children
 - ▶ Provisions will be made for pets, they will stay in separate housing; bring food for pets if readily available; dogs must be leashed

Earthquakes are an example of a disaster that cannot be predicted and that is not seasonal. Be prepared at all times!

Natural & Beneficial Functions of Floodplains

Filling property to increase elevation in the floodplain is allowed today, but the long term goal is to minimize fill to protect fish and wildlife habitat. Burlington supports habitat improvements in the floodplain, and the Gages Slough restoration projects are a major effort in the city. The Gages Slough habitat management plan has identified locations for restoration and water quality improvement projects, so mitigation projects will be ready to build when the opportunity arises. Storm water quality monitoring in Burlington clearly shows that better water quality treatment systems are needed and this is a major focus of the surface water utility.

Gages Slough property owners who are interested in having the Slough permanently reserved as Open Space now have a new opportunity to donate land without subdividing, and benefit in other areas as well. The procedure is just being put together to implement the new ordinance. Contact the Planning Department if you are interested.

Protecting agricultural lands is part of protecting the Natural and Beneficial Functions of Floodplains. The city is working towards implementing the Burlington Agricultural Heritage Credit program which will raise funds for farmland preservation in exchange for increased residential density in Downtown and the Retail Core. An area of 5,628 acres has been identified as the target area for purchase of development rights.

Key elements of the Skagit Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan include giving the Skagit River more room by setting the dikes back in Burlington and to the mouth of the Skagit River, carefully coordinating and managing the hydroelectric power dams in the river system during a flood event (a goal not yet achieved), permanently moving homes and development rights out of the floodway, improving the environment for wildlife, and creating new public access opportunities to improve everyone’s quality of life.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

River Hotline *(Recording)*

(360) 419-3425

Current river levels and predicted levels -

Skagit County Public Works

(360) 336-9400

Road closure information

Skagit County Dept. of Emergency Management

(360) 428-3250

Emergency shelters/special transportation problems/evacuation

Call 911 only during life-threatening situations.

Map Determination & Library Information

A map determination is figuring out where the 100 year flood elevation is located relative to the first occupied floor of your home or business. This information is used to prepare an Elevation Certificate. A citywide system of elevation benchmarks is maintained in the Building Department. An average of an additional \$200 in savings is possible on your flood insurance policy if you have an elevation certificate, in addition to the 20% rate reduction already available in Burlington, as a result of community participation in the federal Community Rating System program. There are issues with flood insurance providers, and if you feel that you are not getting good information, please contact the city and we will try to help.

Information on other flood improvements, such as elevating your building, filling the crawl space, or floodproofing the lower portion, is available from the City and in the Burlington Public Library. There is a catalogue reference that will direct you to the information you need. Spring is a great time for upgrading your home to meet flood standards, even on a small scale, and the latest techniques are on file in the library.

Every regular Neighborhood Planning meeting, held in the spring and fall, includes a flood and natural hazard mitigation topic. There will also be a series of special meetings this year to discuss the proposed changes in flood maps, as soon as they are available. Call the Planning Department at 755-9717 to get on the mailing list! Take the time to participate because your ideas will be taken seriously and you will have a say in the future of your community.

Substantial Improvement/Damage Requirements

The National Flood Insurance Program requires that if the cost of reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvements to a building equals or exceeds 50% of the building's market value, then the building must meet the construction requirements for a new building. Substantially damaged buildings must also be brought up to the same standard. The major issue is elevating the structure one foot above the 100 year flood elevation, along with all mechanical equipment, ductwork and electrical equipment, unless you are located in the Gages Slough Special Flood Risk Zone where "breakaway walls" are required below the 100 year flood elevation.

Drainage System Maintenance

This is the fourth year of water quality studies in Gages Slough and the plans for more wetland restoration projects to improve water quality are being made this year with a new study of opportunities for wetland projects, the Gages Slough habitat management plan. Clean water, efficient flow of water when needed, and a quality environment are the goals. Gages Slough and the Skagit River are important amenities for the community.

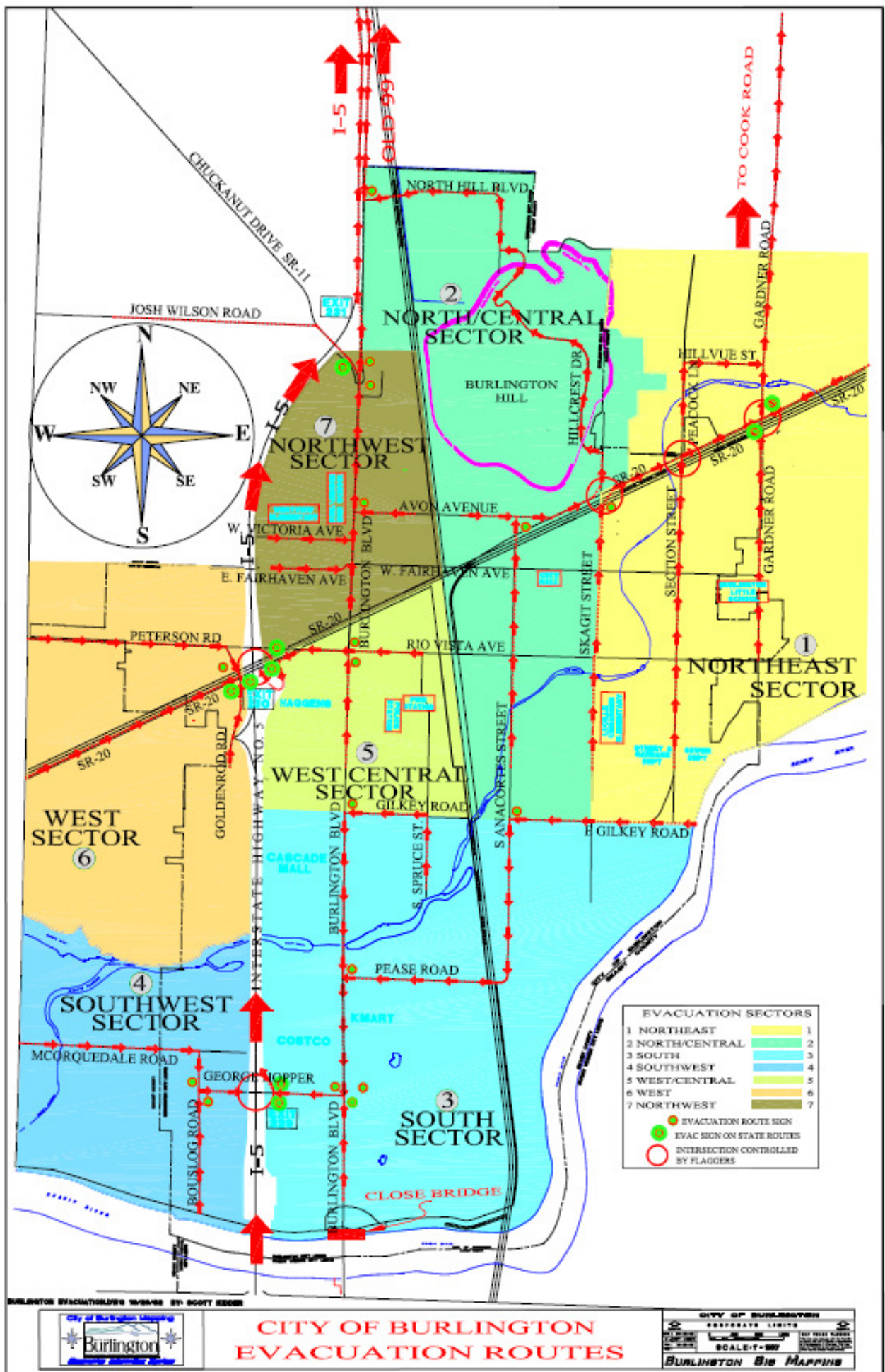
The drainage maintenance and inspection program is part of flood hazard mitigation. Every year, all detention ponds, pipes, catch basins and other drainage control structures are inspected and corrections required as needed to ensure that the capacity of the ponds is maintained and that the ability of the system to clean the storm water is retained, in addition to inspection and maintenance of the city street system. The public drainage system, including culverts, pipes and ditches is well maintained. Gages Slough is maintained at each street intersection and culvert location. A well maintained drainage system that functions in small storms will provide the best assistance possible in large storms and floods, by quickly and efficiently carrying the excess water out of town.

Thank you for respecting the signs that state "No Dumping – thank you" at public access points to Gages Slough! Each property owner along the Slough is responsible for cleaning up any litter or trash that is on their property. The problem of illegal dumping of yard waste in Gages Slough and the problem of trash dumped at points of public access to the River can only be solved if everyone helps out. It is illegal to dump or to fill along Gages Slough or the Skagit River. You may report illegal dumping (this includes yard waste) in the Slough, by calling the Code Enforcement Officer at either 755-9717 or 755-2307, or in writing.

Floodplain Development Permit Requirements

Before you build, add fill, or make changes to your property and structures, be sure to contact the Planning and Building Departments to determine if any permits or approvals are necessary. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Insurance Industry make frequent changes in the interpretation of floodplain standards, and you need to be sure you are using the most current information for any construction project.

City of Burlington Planning Dept.
833 S. Spruce Street
Burlington WA 98233
phone: (360) 755-9717
email: bplanning@ci.burlington.wa.us





EVACUATION PLAN

Keep this Map in case of Emergency

The City of Burlington Evacuation Map is on the back of this plan. In case of evacuation, please *follow the arrows on the Evacuation Route Signs*. *Members of the Emergency Response Team MAY BE stationed at each critical corner as Flaggers to provide direction, if available.* There are basically three routes out of Burlington, all leading to the NORTH, and every route on the Plan will lead you to Gardner Road, Old Highway 99, and Interstate 5.

This Evacuation Plan is for ALL HAZARDS. The order of Evacuation may change based on the type of Emergency. A suggestion is to keep this plan and map in your Emergency Preparedness Kit.

Every effort will be made to notify people in dangerous areas door-to-door, but this may not be possible. When an emergency is pending **turn on your radio and listen for instructions** on one of the following local Emergency Alert System or call (360) 428-3250:

KBRC 1430 AM ♦ KLKI 1340 AM ♦ KAPS 660 AM

SECURE YOUR HOME BEFORE LEAVING: turn off electricity, gas and water if possible.

WHERE TO GO: If you do not have a relative or friend to go to, plans have been made for you to stay in a designated shelter. The exact location of shelters will be designated on the Emergency Broadcast Stations or by calling (360) 428-3250.

WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU: If there is time, take a brief moment to gather a few important items you may need. **DO NOT DELAY, *do this quickly and leave as soon as you can.***

1. **CLOTHING** – plan to be away at least 24 hours
2. **PERSONAL ITEMS** – such as toilet articles, documents, photo albums, etc.
3. **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** – insulin, nitroglycerin, antihistamine, etc.
4. **BEDDING** – sleeping bags, pillows, blankets, etc.
5. **EYEGLASSES**
6. **FOOD** – if a special diet is required
7. **BABY OR CHILD SUPPLIES** – food, diapers, toys, etc.
8. **PROPER IDENTIFICATION** – important for small children, adults.
9. **PETS** – provisions will be made for pets, they will stay in separate housing, bring food if readily available, and *dogs must be leashed.*
10. **MONEY, CREDIT CARDS, CHECKS, ETC.**
11. **VEHICLE SUPPLIES** – flashlight, first aid kit.

HOW TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH FRIENDS OR RELATIVES AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT: A registration center has been set up at all the shelters. You may go there in person or contact them by telephone (listen to the radio for instructions).